<u>WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:</u>

1. A method for trimming loose threads in circular knitting machines, wherein it comprises the steps of :

starting from an initial pattern and on the basis of a given type of
5   circular knitting machine, if one wishes to trim the loose threads, measuring a distance between needles of the same color on a same row in order to check whether said distance is at least equal to, or greater than, a minimum distance that allows to perform trimming of the loose threads;

if said distance is shorter than said minimum distance, replacing a
10   portion of said pattern with at least one special color that identifies a different type of knitting process for said portion of said pattern, to be performed on said circular knitting machine;

modifying said pattern on the basis of said replacement of said portion of said pattern;

15   producing an advancement by a number of rows equal to the number of drops of the knitting machine that are active; and

encoding the pattern with the modifications, in order to perform the knitting process.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of replacing a
20   portion of said pattern with a special color that corresponds to a given type of knitting process consists in actuating a change of drop for said textile machine or a change of thread guide.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of modifying said pattern is followed by a step which checks whether the row of knitting
25   has been completed or not.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein if said row of knitting has not been completed, the method returns to the step of measuring the distance between needles of the same color on a same row, in order to check whether said measured distance is equal to, or greater than, the minimum
30   distance allowed for trimming said loose threads.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein each special color corresponds to a given type of knitting process for said circular knitting machine.